

## **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of the invention provide a scalable method for analyzing a network. The method includes generating a data trace representative of the network, determining a topology for the network from the data trace, and sequentially analyzing each frame in the data trace to determine at least one of network errors, warnings, and metrics. The analysis of each frame generally includes analyzing a first protocol layer of the frame with a first expert engine, determining if a second protocol layer is present in the frame, passing the frame to a second expert engine, and passing the frame to additional expert engines if the frame contains additional protocol layers.

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